Forget about the gold rush

Canada gets bounced from gold-medal contention after a 5-1 semifinal loss to the Americans at the world juniors PAGE 22

HER SECRET'S OUT

JESSICA CHASTAIN SAYS SHE COULD NEVER BE A CIA AGENT LIKE HER CHARACTER IN ZERO DARK THIRTY, WHICH TELLS THE TALE OF THE HUNT FOR OSAMA BIN LADEN PAGE 9

VANCOUVER metro®

WEEKEND, January 4-6, 2013

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Port Mann-ia: 40 vehicles crash on slippery bridge

Traffic. Inadequate de-icing blamed for rush-hour chaos

Insufficient de-icing of the Port Mann Bridge caused major traffic snafus, multiple collisions involving 40 vehicles and minor injuries during rush hour Thursday morning.

Transportation Investment Corp., the Crown corporation that operates the $3.3-billion bridge, "certainly regrets" the icy conditions, spokesman Max Logan said. It has asked its maintenance contractor, Mainroad Contracting, to apply a salt-water brine solution at least once a day in winter weather, along with salt crystals if required.

Mainroad treated the bridge with de-icing solution expected to last 48 hours on Wednesday at 4 a.m. Crews monitored the bridge six times from 10 p.m. Wednesday to 5 a.m. Thursday — "but obviously despite those efforts, the concentration of the salt-water brine solution wasn't sufficient," Logan said.

Taxpayers won't be on the hook for increased de-icing costs because Mainroad is contractually responsible to ensure ice doesn't accumulate on the bridge, he said.

Mainroad directed questions to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, which bounced them back to Transportation Investment Corp.

The agency is "confident" there won't be a repeat of the "preventable" incidents, Logan added.

Tolls won't be waived since the bridge remained open.

One person was taken to hospital with minor injuries, RCMP said.

Drivers were travelling too fast for the conditions, said Robi Clesson, who was stuck between two westbound accidents on the bridge.

This marked the second time cold weather has caused chaos on the 10-lane span since it opened last month.

In December "snow bombs" fell from the bridge, resulting in smashed windows and about 275 ICBC claims. The government blamed bridge designer and builder Kiewit-Flatiron for not meeting specifications.

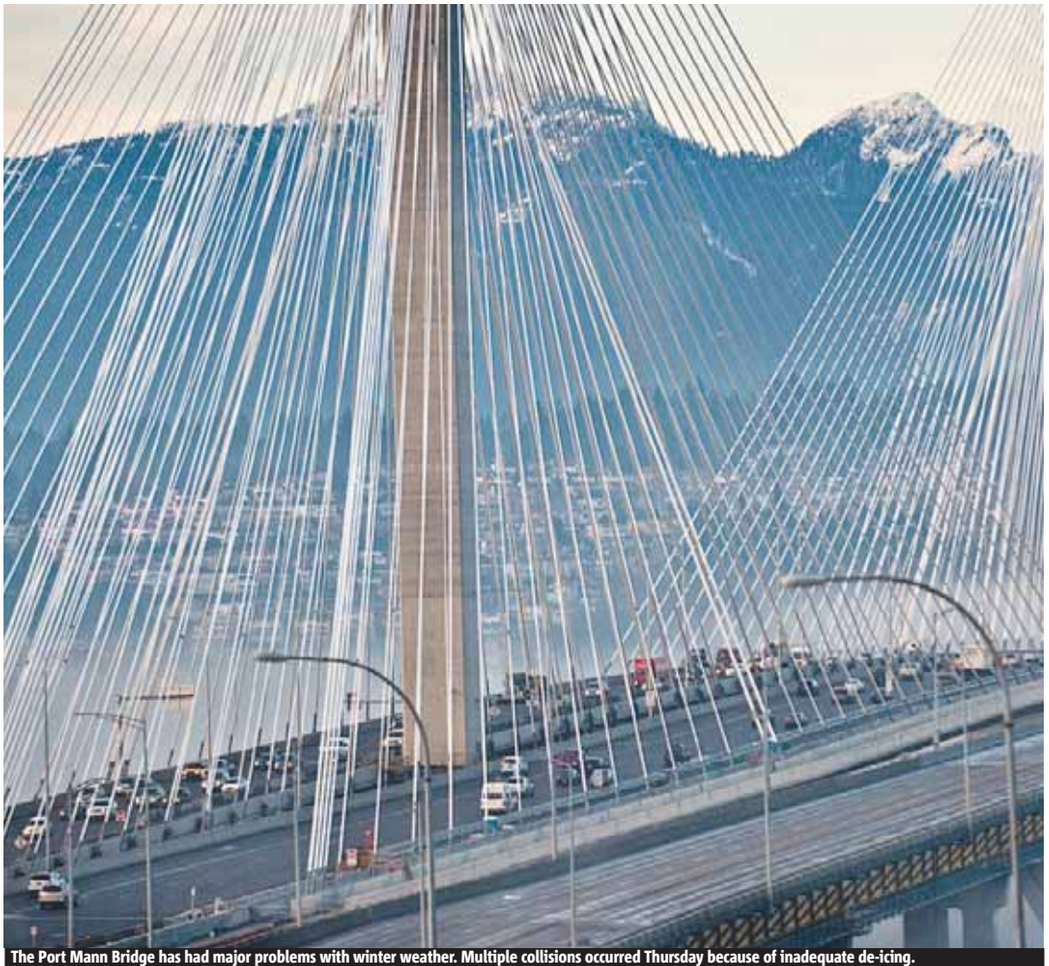
But on Thursday the problem had nothing to do with the design of the bridge, which is "absolutely safe," Logan said.

Hourly monitoring will take place on site if snow builds up in the future to ensure there isn't a second snow-bomb incident, he said. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Give them a break?

Luckily for the government, the bridge's de-icing and snow-bomb incidents are unrelated, SFU political science Prof. Paddy Smith said.

- "To cut them a little bit of slack, it's a new facility, it's a mega-project and virtually all mega-projects have some teething problems," he said.
- The real test, he added, is whether the problems reoccur.



The Port Mann Bridge has had major problems with winter weather. Multiple collisions occurred Thursday because of inadequate de-icing.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

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Fraser Valley

Prisoner charged with murder of fellow prisoner

A convicted killer has been charged with murdering another prisoner at a jail in the Fraser Valley more than a year ago.

James Saar is accused of second-degree murder in the death of Troy Robert Squires, who was found unresponsive in his cell at Mission Institution on Dec. 2, 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Land claims

Feds, province ordered to cover First Nation's legal fees

The federal and provincial governments have been ordered to pay some of the legal bills of a B.C. First Nation that won a partial victory over a land-claims case.

Last June, the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled the Tsilhqot'in First Nation had rights to hunt, trap and trade in what it considers its traditional land near Williams Lake, but rejected its claim to full aboriginal title.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sea-to-Sky Highway

Train derailment blocks highway

A train derailment has blocked the Sea-to-Sky Highway south of Pemberton.

The RCMP say some empty rail cars went off the tracks, so nothing was spilled.

There was some minor damage to a vehicle on the road, but no reports of any injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Around 150 people take part in an Idle No More rally Thursday at the University of British Columbia. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Idle No More rally at Peace Arch Saturday

Hundreds expected. Protest in support of Idle No More set for this weekend at border crossing

KATE WEBB
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The president of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs says the Idle No More rally scheduled to hit the Peace Arch border crossing Saturday will be peaceful and is not designed to block border traffic.

"It will feature, without question, hundreds and hundreds of indigenous and non-indigenous people converging on the Peace Arch in support of the Idle No More movement," Grand Chief Stewart Phillip said Thursday after speaking at a protest attended by nearly 150 First Nations activists and students at UBC.

"We will also be offering prayers for the safety, health and well-being of (Attawapiskat) Chief Theresa Spence, who is on a hunger strike, and to give expression to the myriad of issues that underlie the Idle No More movement."

Another rally was scheduled to take place at Vancouver's Broadway Station Thursday evening — the city's third such gathering in two days.

Saturday's rally at the Peace Arch will coincide with border rallies across the country, including one in Osoyoos, Phillip said, which are designed to draw international attention to the federal government's treatment of First Nations.

Vancouver Quadra MP and Liberal leadership candidate Joyce Murray collected signed petitions opposing Bill C-45 at University of British Columbia Thursday, promising to present them in the House of Commons. She said the bill introduced changes to the Navigable Waters Act that she relied on when she was B.C.'s environment minister.

"As a provincial environment minister in British Columbia I personally visited wetlands that were being protected from the damage that jet boats would do to the migratory birds and the wildlife, only because they were protected by the Navigable Waters Protection Act," she said, adding the act also protected fish-spawning grounds from things like construction runoff and other disturbances.

"There still are provincial protections, but the federal protections were the basis, they were the foundation."

The rally at the Peace Arch begins at 1 p.m. Saturday. Canadian Border Services Agency spokeswoman Jennifer Bourque said via email she expects there to be a police presence.

"It will be business as usual at all of CBSA's port of entry," she wrote. "Our priority remains the smooth and safe flow of legitimate travel and trade across Canada. We will update travellers should there be service interruptions or longer wait times, as per our usual protocol."

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Case adjourned until Monday. Former beauty queen's guilty plea in Stanley Cup riot postponed

A former beauty queen charged with participating in last year's Stanley Cup riot was a no-show in court Thursday where she was expected to plead guilty.

Sophie Laboissonniere, who had won the Miss Congeniality title in the 2011 Miss Coastal Vancouver pageant, was charged with participating in a riot and break-and-enter. She was allegedly part of a mob that looted London Drugs the night the Vancouver Canucks lost to the Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup Final.

The Richmond woman, who was 20 at the time of the June 15 melee, did not appear at Vancouver provincial court Thursday morning.

Her lawyer, David Baker, said his client's absence was not the reason why the case has been adjourned until Monday afternoon.

Laboissonniere was among the first ones to be hit with charged stemming from the Stanley Cup riot.

To date, Vancouver police have recommended 1,040 charges against 315 suspected rioters. Of those, 173 have been formally charged.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Police seek suspect. Two Good Samaritans interrupt New Year's Day sexual assault

Police want to find and thank two Good Samaritans who helped end a sexual assault in the early hours of New Year's Day.

A 38-year-old woman was sexually assaulted after getting out of a taxi and walking east along West Broadway at Granville Street around 4 a.m.

But her assailant ran away after two men waiting at a nearby bus stop came to the woman's assistance and interrupted the attack.

"These two men were responsible for stopping this attack before it progressed further," said Geoff Gabriel of the Vancouver police sex-crimes unit in a statement. "They should be commended for their actions."

The victim has suffered a great deal of distress from the attack but was not physically injured.

Investigators would like to speak to the Good Samaritans for help identifying the attacker.

Police describe the suspect as a white, clean-shaven, six-foot-four, slender male in his 40s with a shaved head. He wore a black hoodie; a shiny, black faux-leather waist-length jacket; dark pants; and brown hiking boots at the time of the attack.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call the police sex-crimes unit at 604-717-0600.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Oregon tragedy

Two more bus-crash victims ID'd

Oregon officials have released the names of two more of the people killed in the horrific crash of a B.C. tour bus on Sunday.

The latest to be identified are a 63-year-old Washington state resident and a 61-year-old South Korean national.

Nine people died and 38 were injured when the bus owned by Vancouver's Mi Joo Tour and Travel crashed through a highway guardrail near Pendleton, Oregon, and plunged down an embankment.

Several of the survivors returned to B.C. last night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homicide investigation

RCMP continue to search for teen's killer

The RCMP are searching for a man who might have some information related to the murder of a 16-year-old girl in Kamloops.

The body of CJ Fowler was discovered in a ravine on the morning of Dec. 5.

Const. Bernie Ward says a man was spotted in the area that morning smoking a cigarette and apparently waiting for someone, and investigators want to talk to him to find out if he saw anything suspicious.

Police say Fowler was murdered shortly after leaving Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops.

CHNL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surrey Urban Mission executive director Jonquil Hallgate says there are few other local shelters that will be able to accommodate those displaced if the mission doesn't find a new home to move into by Jan. 25. JENNIFER GAUTHIER

Property sale could leave Surrey Urban Mission homeless

Looking for shelter. Exec. director reaching out to city councillors, business community for recommendations of places to lease

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

The last-minute sale of a property that an extreme-weather shelter in Surrey was planning to move into this month could leave the homeless refuge itself homeless.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, where the Surrey Urban Mission runs now, accommodates up to 60 people on nights when the temperature dips below 0 C and up to 180 people for meals, but the building is slated to be redeveloped into a tower.

Executive director Jonquil Hallgate says she lined up a two-year lease on a suitable replacement space nearby, but to her unfortunate surprise it was sold by its owner in China on Dec. 30, just two days before they were due to take possession.

The mission has until Jan. 25 to vacate the church, and with only a handful of other busy shelters in the city Hallgate is worried about the community she serves.

"The thing about the Mission is we have no barriers, so people with animal companions, people who have mobility challenges, people who are discharged from hospitals who might not be able to go to a shelter because of their medical needs can come here," she explained.

"If we are not available to offer those services, then the question is, where do people go?"

Hallgate said she has reached out to city councillors and people in the Surrey business community in hopes someone will be able to recommend a suitable place to lease. Anyone with suggestions can call and leave a message for the mission at 604-581-5172.

Follow Kate Webb on Twitter @MetroK8

New strain. Norovirus outbreaks at VGH running their course: Health officer

Several small outbreaks of the norovirus in Vancouver-area hospitals have nearly run their course, but a new strain of the highly contagious virus has led to a spike in the number of overall cases in B.C. this winter.

An acute-care ward for the elderly at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster was reopened for admissions on Thursday. Another ward at the hospital remained closed.

At Vancouver General Hospital, officials said if there were no more cases at an acute-care ward, the outbreak would be declared over on Friday and the ward reopened for admissions.

"We're seeing hundreds of people who are affected by norovirus," said Tasleem Juma, spokeswoman for Fraser Health.

"This year is a particularly difficult year simply because it's a new strain."

The Sydney strain of the gastrointestinal virus — named after the Australian capital where it first appeared — is circulating throughout the province, said Dr. Perry Kendall, provincial health officer.

Kendall said the number of norovirus cases in November were about three times the number seen in the same month the previous year. In December, there were about two times the cases.

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Advocates report more pets caught in traps last year

Dogs run free then snap. Sixteen cases reported to association last year, which wants to see trapping banned

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The traps might not be meant for Fido, but the steel contraptions don't discriminate when a pet sets them off.

More pets were accidentally trapped in 2012 than 2011, according to reports made to the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals.

Sixteen cases were reported to the association last year, almost half of which were in B.C., spokesman Adrian Nelson said. Only five cases were reported in 2011, but the association estimates actual numbers are much higher.

Two pets recently died in traps in the central Okanagan, prompting the association to alert pet owners to the risks of letting a dog run free.

Nelson recommends keeping dogs on leash while on trails during the trapping season, which runs from October to April.

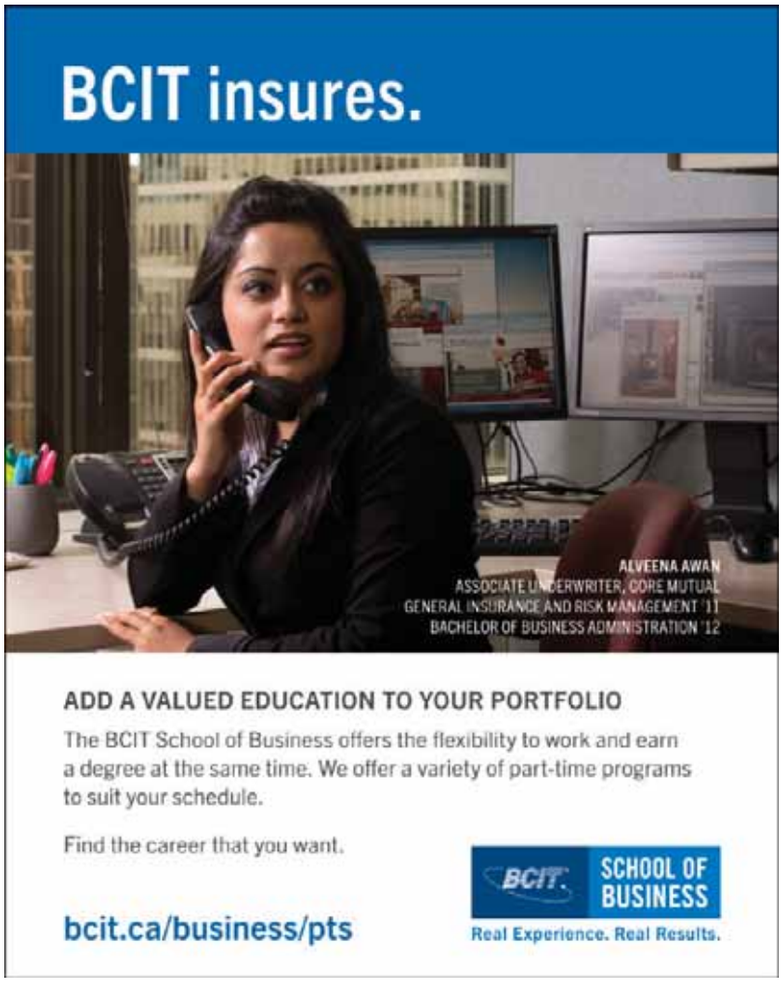
It's legal to set leg-hold, Conibear and snare traps 200 metres from a dwelling.

About 3,500 trappers operate in B.C. under the Wildlife Act to manage 17 fur-bearing species, including muskrats, beavers and lynx. About half of the province's trappers are aboriginal.

"Obviously we would love to see trapping banned — there's really no need for it, it's dangerous," Nelson said. "At a bare minimum, the government should put signage up to alert people there are traps in the area."

The government, however, has been reluctant to talk trapping regulations, Nelson said.

Trinity the dog was caught in a trap in Calgary in 2012. CONTRIBUTED BY AARCS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RCMP catch fewer impaired drivers in B.C. over holidays

The Mounties in B.C. say fewer drunk drivers were caught in roadblocks across the province this holiday season compared to previous years.

They say preliminary numbers from areas policed by the RCMP show 961 people were charged with impaired driving and other offences during the CounterAttack program from Dec. 2 to Jan. 2nd, compared to 1,434 in the same period last year.

Almost 350 drivers were given 90-day driving suspensions, another 272 got three-day driving bans and 135 were given drug-related 24-hour suspensions.

Cpl. Robert McDonald of RCMP Traffic Services says good media coverage of the new impaired-driving laws and penalties has helped people make better choices about drinking and driving.

Although they found fewer impaired drivers, RCMP officers handed out about 3,000 other tickets during the CounterAttack program, including 1,419 drivers who were using an electronic device.

Another 213 were caught speeding and 1,364 tickets were written for seatbelt violations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sentencing

Feds want longer than 17 years for drug smuggling

A drug-smuggling sentence of almost 17 years imposed on a B.C. man is not long enough for federal prosecutors in Saskatchewan.

They are appealing the term handed to Vernon resident Brock Palfrey, 25, in November for his part in a huge bust in Saskatchewan in late 2011.

Co-accused Troy Swanson, 26, of Coldstream, was sentenced to nearly 11 years behind bars — and that sentence is also being appealed.

CKIZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Down 31%

Vancouver home sales plunge in December

The Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver says home sales fell sharply in December compared with a year ago.

The board sales home sales were down 31.1 per cent in the last month of the year compared with 2011.

Sales in December totalled 1,142 for the month.

The MLS home price index composite benchmark price for residential properties in the region was also lower.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Counselling for crew

Person killed by freight train in Kamloops

Members of a CP Rail train crew are being offered counselling after a tragic early-morning accident on the CP main line through a Kamloops, B.C., suburb.

CP Rail spokesman Kevin Hersak says a westbound freight train was travelling through the Dallas area of Kamloops, about 350 kilometres northeast of Vancouver. He says the crew saw what appeared to be a person lying on the tracks. The victim could not be roused nor the train stopped.

CHNL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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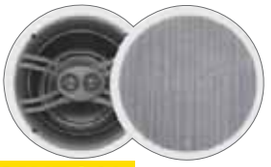

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Switzerland

3 gunned down in village streets

A shooting in southern Switzerland has left three women dead, two men wounded and highlighted the ease of access to firearms in the gun-loving nation.

The suspect, a 33-year-old unemployed man living on disability, opened fire from his apartment and pursued people in the street Wednesday night in the village of Daillon, authorities in the Swiss canton (state) of Valais said Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah

Elvis Presley too hot for 2013

A parent upset about Elvis Presley songs in a high-school drama prompted educators to cancel the musical, deeming it too sexual. But the decision was reversed Thursday.

Herriman High School received permission from the copyright owners of All Shook Up to edit the songs and make scene changes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York

Paper needs guns after outing users

A New York state newspaper that created a public outcry when it published the names and addresses of residents with handgun permits is being protected by armed guards.

Journal News last month published online maps with the names and addresses of pistol permit holders in two counties it covers. It sought the public records after the school shooting in nearby Newtown, Conn.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California

Teens cuffed for drugging parents

Two California teenagers were arrested after they gave one of the girl's parents milkshakes spiked with prescription sleeping pills so she could use the Internet past her curfew, police said.

The 15-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old friend were taken to Juvenile Hall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students attend their first day at Sandy Hook clone

Newtown shooting. School in neighbouring town made to look as close as possible to old school — plus security

Signs welcome more than 400 students to the former Chalk School in Monroe, Conn. JESSICA HILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Classes resumed Thursday for the students of the Newtown, Conn., school where a gunman last month killed 20 children and six adults in the second-largest school shooting in U.S. history.

With their school still being treated as a crime scene, the more than 400 students of Sandy Hook Elementary School attended classes in neighbouring Monroe.

Returning students, teachers and administrators were met by a large police presence outside their new school, an overhauled middle school that had been shuttered for nearly two years. Several officers guarded the entrance and checked IDs of parents dropping off children.

Law-enforcement officers guarding the new school called it "the safest school in America."

Students found the same chairs and desks, when possible. Their classroom walls were painted the same colours and hung with the same pictures. Other details, such as the location of bookshelves and cubby holes, were replicated as much as possible.

The school district said parents who wanted to be close to their children were welcome to visit and stay in classrooms or an auditorium.

Newtown superintendent Janet Robinson said officials would do their best to make the students feel at ease.

"We will be doing a normal day," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Niggling doubt

"It's very hard to turn off the little 'What if?'.... Dec. 14 started out as a normal day, too."

Sarah Caron, 32, parent of two kids scarred by the shooting, upon seeing them go back to school.

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Rape and murder charges laid against accused in gang rape

Global outrage.
Protesters gather in New Delhi and around the world to push for stricter laws against sexual assaults in India

Savita Verma, a mother from Brampton, Ont., wipes a tear as she joins a protest outside the Indian Consulate in Toronto on Thursday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Five men accused of raping a university student for hours on a bus as it drove through India's capital were charged Thursday with murder, rape and other crimes that could bring them the death penalty.

The attack on the 23-year-old woman, who died of severe internal injuries over the weekend, provoked a fierce debate across India about the routine mistreatment of females and triggered daily protests demanding action.

There have been signs of change since the attack. Rapes, often ignored, have become front-page news, politicians have called for tougher laws, including the death penalty and chemical castration for rapists, and the government is examining wide-scale reforms in the criminal justice system's handling of sexual assaults. Activists say the tragedy could mark a turning point for women's rights.

In a nation where court cases often linger for years, the government set up a special fast-track court Wednesday to deal with crimes against women, and that is where the charges against the five men were filed Thursday evening. The government said it planned to open four more of those courts in the city.

Prosecutor Rajiv Mohan filed a case of rape, tampering with evidence, kidnapping, murder and other charges against the men. The charge sheet was not released and he asked for a closed trial. A hearing was set for Saturday.

The men charged were Ram Singh, the bus driver; his brother Mukesh Singh, who cleans buses for the same company; Pavan Gupta, a fruit vendor; Akshay Singh, a bus washer; and Vinay Sharma, a fitness trainer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unwanted pregnancy

Man who poked holes in condoms loses sexual assault appeal

A Nova Scotia man convicted of sexual assault for trying to trick his girlfriend into becoming pregnant by poking holes in her condoms has lost his appeal.

Craig Jaret Hutchinson of Shelburne County was given an 18-month prison sentence in December 2011 after his judge-only trial heard that he pricked his girlfriend's condoms with a pin in 2006 so she would get pregnant and not break up with him.

The Halifax-area woman became pregnant and had an abortion, but she later suffered an infection of her uterus that was treated with antibiotics.

Hutchinson later filed an appeal, arguing that the Nova Scotia Supreme Court's sentence was harsh and excessive and that the woman voluntarily consented to having sex with him.

But in a 4-1 majority decision, the court said the sentence was not unfit and the trial judge was correct to conclude that the woman did not consent to having unprotected sex.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ho Chi Minh City. Starbucks to open first café in Vietnam

Starbucks Corp. says it will open its first Vietnam café early next month in Ho Chi Minh City as part of its strategy to expand across Asia.

The chain will be entering a country of coffee lovers that already has an established market. At least two popular homegrown chains have dozens of locations across the country.

Vietnam is the world's second-largest coffee producer behind Brazil and provides high-quality beans for Starbucks stores in other countries.

Starbucks operates more than 3,300 stores across 11 countries in China and the Asia-Pacific region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, D.C. Google chief's North Korean visit 'unhelpful,' according to U.S. government

The U.S. government is voicing opposition to a planned North Korea visit by Google's executive chairman. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Thursday the timing of the visit by Eric Schmidt and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is "unhelpful."

People familiar with the plans tell The Associated Press the trip will happen as early as this month.

Last month, North Korea shot a satellite into space on the back of a three-stage rocket in defiance of a UN ban. Washington and others decried it as a covert test of ballistic missile technology and are seeking UN Security Council action against Pyongyang.

Nuland said Schmidt and Richardson were "well aware" of the U.S. government's views. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overseas accounts

Swiss bank to pay $57.8M in U.S. tax evasion case

Switzerland's oldest bank became the first foreign bank to plead guilty in the United States to tax charges when it admitted Thursday that it helped U.S. clients hide more than $1.2 billion US from the Internal Revenue Service. Wegelin & Co. had been accused of helping clients conceal large sums in overseas accounts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.21¢ (-0.29¢)

TSX 12,470.44 (-70.33)

OIL $92.92 US (-20¢)

GOLD $1,674.60 US (-$14.20)

Natural gas: $3.19 US (-4¢)
Dow Jones: 13,391.36 (-21.19)

Mother Nature racks up $65B in insurance payouts for 2012

Disaster toll. Weather events led by Superstorm Sandy cost the industry dear, but total is down from record set during earthquake-ridden 2011

A man walks past a small commercial strip that burned down during Superstorm Sandy in the Rockaways section of New York City on Wednesday. The storm cost insurers $25 billion US in payouts. SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Natural disasters cost insurers $65 billion US last year, with the United States accounting for nine-tenths of the bill and Superstorm Sandy prompting payouts of $25 billion, a leading insurance company said Thursday.

However, Munich Re AG said that the total insured losses worldwide were down from a record $119 billion in 2011, when devastating earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand cost the industry dear.

The company said total economic costs in 2012 from natural disasters worldwide — including uninsured losses — amounted to $160 billion, compared with the previous year's $400 billion.

Sandy, which battered eastern coastline areas at the end of October, killed at least 125 people in the United States and 71 people in the Caribbean.

Munich Re estimated insured losses from Sandy at $25 billion and total losses at $50 billion, though it cautioned that the figures are "still subject to considerable uncertainty." That made it the year's most costly disaster. The lengthy drought that seared swathes of the U.S. last summer produced 2012's second-biggest insurance bill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ben Kiniry of Texas gets cash from an ATM machine along the main road leading to the Vatican on Thursday. For now, Vatican tourists can only use cash to pay for tickets and souvenirs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican stops taking plastic

It's "cash only" now for tourists at the Vatican wanting to pay for museum tickets, souvenirs and other services after Italy's central bank decided to block electronic payments, including credit cards, at the tiny city-state.

Deutsche Bank Italia, which for some 15 years had provided the Vatican with electronic payment services, said Thursday that the Bank of Italy had pulled its authorization after Dec. 31. The Corriere della Sera newspaper reported that the Italian central bank took the action because the Holy See has not yet fully complied with European Union safeguards against money laundering. That means Italian banks are not authorized to operate within the Vatican, which is in the process of improving its mechanisms to combat laundering.

The Vatican says it is scrambling to solve the problem for thousands of visitors who flock to its very popular Vatican Museums, which include highlights such as the Sistine Chapel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"A lot of tourists don't have cash on them, so they have to get euros and don't know where to get them." Fluger William Hunter, an American tourist in Vatican City

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FORECAST FOR 2013: FERMENTING KIMYE & A JUICED HONEY BOO BOO

THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

I spent my holiday honing my psychic skills. Here are my predictions for the year ahead:

1 **Deja vu.** This year's top reality show will feature a mother managing the careers of her daughters who, with no discernible talents, eclipse professional entertainers for roles and public attention as they date, marry and divorce rich celebrities. Hey, wait a minute ...

2 **And yet ...** Kim Kardashian will resist the temptation to repeat previous mistakes and enter hastily into marriage with Kanye West. She will publicly reveal her enlightenment regarding the seriousness of such commitment right before she announces that video cameras will be installed in her uterus to broadcast her pregnancy from within.

3 **Do not pass go.** Lindsay Lohan will go to prison. Not so much a "prediction," but I'm probably not wrong.

4 **Weed warnings.** Legalized marijuana will become a growth market and be sold, pre-rolled, in packages like cigarettes. Cautionary labels will read, "Song lyrics may seem more profound than they truly are," "Please refrain from making career-altering decisions while under the influence of this product" and "Dude, don't forget the Cheetos."

5 **Here she comes.** Honey Boo Boo Child, in a "go-go juice"-induced rage, will pummel a pageant adversary, and emerge as trailer-park queen-for-a-day. Endorsement deals will allow her to set aside funds for the therapy and new set of teeth she will eventually require.

6 **Jersey jacking.** Former Jersey Shore cast members will be kidnapped by terrorists and held hostage. A series of prolonged negotiations will be televised and the perpetrators will end up winning an MTV award.

7 **50 Shades of Stress.** Once the concept of BDSM is acclimatized into public consciousness by the novels of E. L. James, studies will show accelerated hair loss in fathers with daughters.

8 **Stellar sequels.** Disney will attempt to shake up the decaying Star Wars franchise by producing new chapters with elements that have proven successful for them in the past. In the new version, Luke Skywalker will be played by a mouse with a high-pitched voice, Darth Vader will be a large bulldog and R2D2 will be played by a member of the George W. Bush administration.

9 **RIM rocks.** The much-anticipated BlackBerry 10 will launch to critical acclaim, causing millions of consumers to say, "Gee, too bad I already bought the iPhone."

10 **Playdate.** Hugh Hefner, 86, and blushing new bride, 26-year-old Crystal Harris, will celebrate their honeymoon by going on a senior's cruise with her grandparents.

11 **Shut the puck up.** Desperate for action after prolonged negotiations, NHL fans will receive gratification when commissioner Gary Bettman is unsuspectingly body-checked by a large hockey mom. Five million hits on YouTube.

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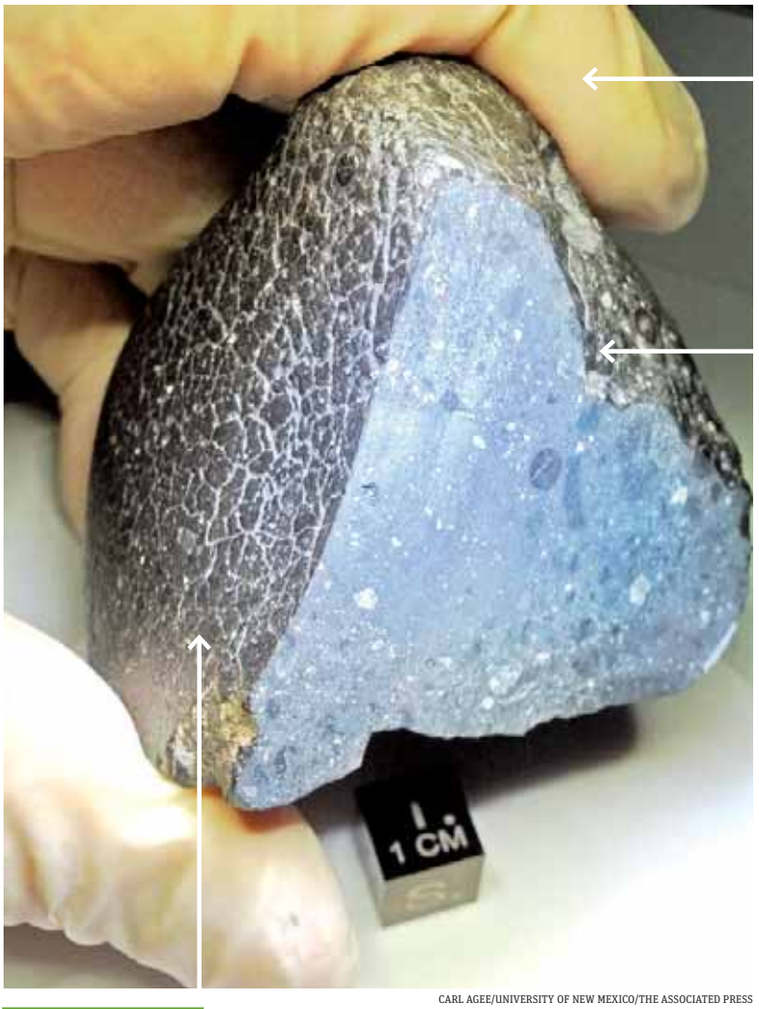
Sweet grass: Fast Eddy Aki'a of Hawaii smokes a joint as thousands gathered to collectively light up at 4:20 p.m. on April 20, 2012, in Denver. GETTY IMAGES FILE

A little bit of Mars on Earth



CARL AGEE/UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mars-velous meteorite

Black Beauty rocks science world

Scientists are abuzz about this rock from Mars that landed in the Sahara desert: A yearlong analysis revealed it's quite different from other Martian meteorites.

Not only is it older than most, it also contains more water. The baseball-size meteorite, estimated to be two billion years old, is strikingly similar to the volcanic rocks examined by the NASA rovers Spirit and Opportunity on the Martian surface. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Triangular treasure

"Here we have a piece of Mars that I can hold in my hands. That's really exciting."

Carl Agee, director of the Institute of Meteoritics and curator at the University of New Mexico, who led the study published online Thursday in the journal Science

Found in the desert

Rock dated 2nd-oldest Mars find

The latest meteorite, known as NWA 7034 and nicknamed "Black Beauty," was donated to the University of New Mexico by an American who bought it from a Moroccan meteorite dealer last year.

Researchers performed a battery of tests on the meteorite and based on its chemical signature confirmed that it was blasted to Earth from Mars. At 2.1 billion years old, it's the second-oldest known Martian meteorite.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rare and ancient

65
About 65 Martian rocks have been recovered on Earth, mostly in Antarctica or the Sahara.

4.5B
The oldest dates back 4.5 billion years to a time when Mars was warmer and wetter.

1.3B
About half a dozen Martian meteorites are 1.3 billion years old, and the rest are 600 million years or younger.

Metropolitan Panel

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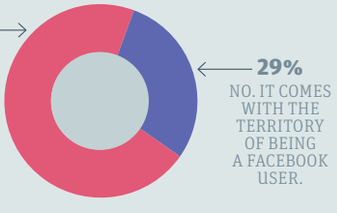
Facebook is being accused of changing privacy settings indiscreetly. Do you care?



Twitter

@LMDRCMP: 40 vehicles involved in Port Mann bridge crashes this morning. One person taken to hospital with minor injuries. No charges laid.

@PIGSTYnorthvan: Super Dave Osborne wouldn't even take the Port Mann Bridge at this point

@diakiw: Making the #portmann bridge out of salt would have solved a lot of problems. Arguably, it also might have created a few.

@Sensfan001Kevin: Winter driving conditions and requirements continue to baffle Vancouver officials... #Vancouver

@anoop_ran: 40 vehicles in collisions this morning on the port-mann after failure to adequately de-ice the bridge. #lobbyingagainstthetoll

metro

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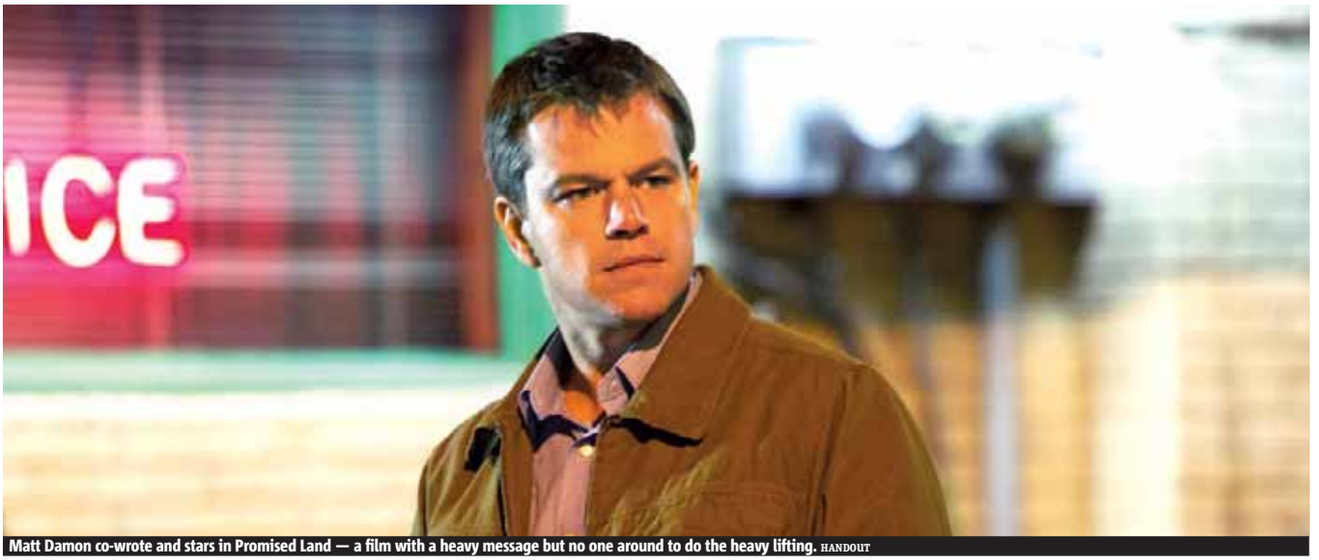
SCENE 2



Matt Damon co-wrote and stars in Promised Land — a film with a heavy message but no one around to do the heavy lifting. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Promised Land lost

Sporadic dramatics.
The Reel Guys disagree if this flick walks a good balance of ideals or hits you over the head with its morals

Richard: Mark, Promised Land is one of those message movies you know is going to end with a big speech, so you just hope it's an entertaining ride until the final oration. In this case, I think the movie let its sense of earnestness overpower the entertainment.

It has good, likeable actors in a story that might have been better served in documentary form, rather than the contrived drama presented here.

Mark: Richard, the last thing I would want to watch is a documentary on the effects of gas drilling on farmland communities. The drama may be contrived, but at least it's drama. I liked watching Matt Damon as he slowly realizes his moral complicity in an unsavoury venture. And Frances McDormand was great as his cynical, wisecracking sidekick. Yes, there's a big speech at the end, but you know the rule: when they show a town hall in act one, they're sure going to use it in act three.

RC: I know. And it is just that kind of formulaic filmmaking that kept the joy away for me. Maybe they fell into formula to make people feel comfortable with the amount of info they're being fed. It's hard to make talk of water table pollution dramatic, and while Promised Land makes an attempt by giving much of the heavy lifting to Hal Holbrook, the grand old man of the cast, it's still only as dramatic as a high school science class lecture.

MB: It's a bit more involving than that! The town has to choose between the hard-bitten realism of Damon's character, and the idealism of John Krasinski's interloper. I enjoyed watching the townspeople squirm as they made their choices. It's classic good versus evil, except that it's not. Did you guess the plot twist near the end? It took me by surprise.

RC: I didn't see the plot twist coming ... because it is totally unbelievable! That aside, the movie gets many of the details right — it's set in a town where the general store is called Rob's Guns, Groceries, Guitars and Gas — and its heart is certainly in the right place, but unlike movies like Erin Brockovich, which managed to mix message and medium, Promised Land feels crushed under the weight of its own heavy hand.

MB: Really, Richard, I thought the message was underplayed, especially compared to films like North Country and Silkwood. It's not a great film, even by the standards of bringing an important issue to light, but the performances and texture made it watchable for me.

Synopsis

Matt Damon (who also co-wrote the script with co-star John Krasinski) stars as Steve Butler, a charming salesman sent to a small Pennsylvania farming community to lease land for a giant natural gas company's fracking project. For him, it's a personal crusade; he believes he's transforming the lives of the cash-strapped farmers. For his partner Sue Thomason (Frances McDormand) it's a job that simply keeps her away from her young son. Complicating matters is Dustin Noble (Krasinski), an environmental activist who, as his last name might imply, comes to town to raise the alarm about the real cost of Steve and Sue's business offer.

Star ratings:

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

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Jessica Chastain's mission impossible

Zero Dark Thirty. There were lots of whispers about Kathryn Bigelow's film on the bin Laden hunt — and its star struggled with keeping secrets...

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Zero Dark Thirty opens next Friday. HANDOUT

Don't let her impressive work in Zero Dark Thirty fool you. Golden Globe-nominated actress Jessica Chastain would make a horrible CIA agent.

It's something she learned not while filming the real-life drama about the hunt for Osama bin Laden, but instead when the film became one of the most scrutinized projects in recent history — even before a frame had been shot. It got so bad that all cast members would tell the press was that director Kathryn Bigelow had made them sign confidentiality agreements ensuring their silence.

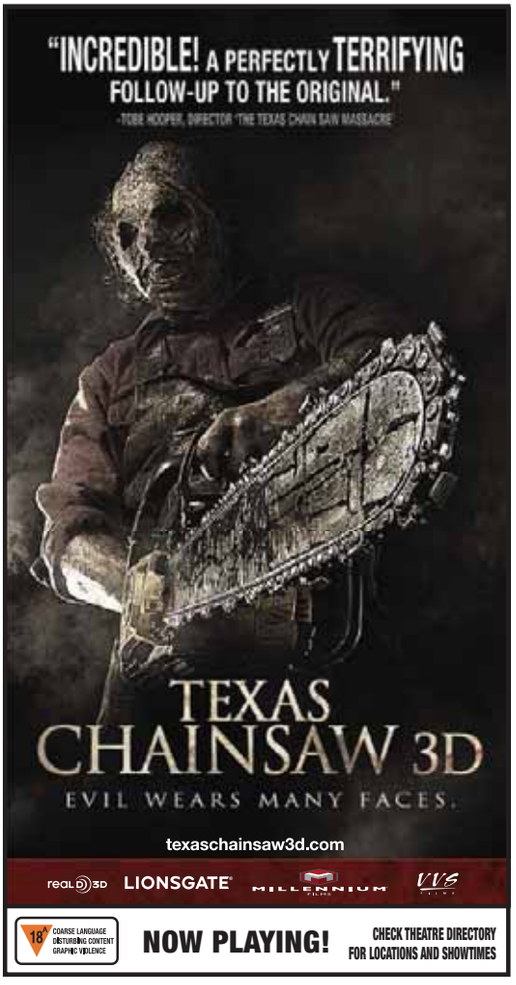
"I am the worst at keeping secrets. I'm the kind of person who, the second that I buy someone a Christmas present, I tell them what I bought them. I don't wait till Christmas. I'm not good at it," Chastain explains.

Luckily, there were those confidentiality agreements. "When I was cast in this, I was so excited about this character of Maya. I found her to be really inspiring and the script was incredible, it was so eye-opening. But I had to keep it a secret," she says. "There was a lot of press coming out and people were speculating that I was (playing) a Navy SEAL wife and all this stuff, and I had to just really hold my tongue for a year. So I'm very excited that people are now seeing the film and they're realizing it's not a propaganda film and it doesn't have an agenda. It just tries to show this moment in history as accurately as possible."

Role research

Playing a mystery woman

One of Chastain's obstacles in tackling the role of Maya was that, while she's based on a real person, there was no way the actress could actually meet her. So she took a different approach to her research. "I had three months before we started shooting that I went to school for it, I guess. I nicknamed (screenwriter) Mark (Boal) 'the Professor.' And I would sit with him and go through the screenplay and ask a lot of questions about the character I was playing, about the CIA," she says. "Because I was never able to meet the real woman it's based on because she's an undercover agent, I had to use my imagination to fill in the blanks where the research couldn't answer the questions."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Vancouver

Dunbar Theatre
4555 Dunbar Street

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Wed 4-7:30 Thu 7

Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street

Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:15
Hitchcock (PG) Fri-Thu 2:35
A Late Quartet (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-4:45-7:10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:50-9:30
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:40 Wed 12:20-3:20-9:40 Thu 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:40
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:50
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 9:20

Pacific Cinémathèque
1131 Howe Street

As Long As You're Healthy (STC) Fri 8:25
The Case of the Grinning Cat (STC) Wed 6:30 Feeling Good (STC) Fri
Five Short Films About Animals (STC) Wed Le Grand Amour (STC) Sat 6:30 Sun 8:20 Happy Anniversary (STC) Sun
La Jetée (STC) Mon 7 Thu 8:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Remembrance of Things to Come (STC) Thu 8:30
Rupture (STC) Sun
Sans Soleil (STC) Mon 7 Wed 8:05 Thu 6:30
The Suitor (STC) Sun 6:30
Yo-Yo Girl Cop (STC) Sat 8:25
Yoyo (STC) Fri 6:30

Park Theatre
3440 Cambie Street

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 11:50-3:20-6:50-10:10 Sun 12:30-4-7:30 Mon-Thu 4-7:30

Ridge Theatre
3131 Arbutus Street

Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:45-7-10:15 Sun 1-4:15-7:30 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:30

Rio on Broadway
1660 E. Broadway

Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Thu 3:15-6:45-10

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver
900 Burrard St

Django Unchained (14A) Fri 11:45-1:40-3:20-5:20-7:10-9-10:50 Sat 10:05-1:40-3:20-5:20-7:10-9-10:50 Sun 11:45-2:30-3:20-6-7:10-9:40-10:50 Mon 1:40-3:10-5:20-6:50-9-10:30 Tue 11:45-1:45-3:20-5:20-7:10-9-10:45 Wed 1:40-3:10-5:20-6:50-9-10:30 Thu 1:30-2-5:20-9-10:30
Gangster Squad (14A) Thu 10
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri-Sun 11-2:45-6:30-10:15 Mon 12:45-4:20-8 Tue 11:40-2:45-6:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 12:45-4:20-8
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Mon 2:30-6:20-10 Tue 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Wed-Thu 2:30-6:20-10
Jack Reacher (PG) Fri-Sat 11-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:55 Sun 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:55 Mon 1-4-7:10-10:15 Tue 1-4-7:30-10:30 Wed 1-4-7:10-10:15 Thu 1-4-7:05
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:35 Mon 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Troyens Live (STC) Sat 9 Les Misérables (PG) Fri 11:15-1:10-3:05-5-6:40-8:40-10:20 Sat 10-1:10-3:05-5-6:40-8:40-10:20 Sun 11:15-1:10-3:05-5-6:40-8:40-10:20 Mon 1:10-3:05-5-6:40-8:40-10:20 Tue 11:35-1:10-3:05-5-6:40-8:40-10:20 Wed 1:10-3:05-5-6:40-8:40-10:20 Thu 1:10-3:05-5-8:40-10:20
Texas Chainsaw (18A) Wed-Thu 12:50
Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon 12:50-3-5:30-8-10:25 Tue 11:30-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:40 Wed-Thu 3-5:30-8-10:25

North Shore

Esplanade 6
200 West Esplanade

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:15-9:40 Mon-Wed 9:40
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 8:30
Gangster Squad (14A) Thu 10
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:45-8:45 Mon-Thu 8:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12-4-8 Mon-Thu 8
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10 Promised Land (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:20 Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

Park & Tilford
333 Brooksbank Ave.

Jack Reacher (PG) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:30 Sat 4:20-7:20-10:30 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:05
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-4-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Troyens Live (STC) Sat 9 Les Misérables (PG) Fri 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:05 Sat 1-3:10-6:40-10:05 Sun 11:50-3:10-6:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:45
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Sun 11:30-2:10-5:10-7:35-10:10 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:50 Wed 9:50 Thu 7:15-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 7-10:10
This Is 40 (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4:05-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:10-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

Richmond

SilverCity Riverport
14211 Entertainment Way

Charlotte's Web (14A) Sat 11
Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:15-4:55-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-5:20-9 Mon-Thu 2-5:40-9:30 Fri-Sun 11:45-3:20-7-10:35 Mon-Thu 2:50-6:30-10:10
Gangster Squad (14A) Thu 10
The Guilt Trip (PG) Fri-Sun 11:10-8-10:35 Mon-Thu 7:50-10:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-5-8:45 Mon-Thu 1:30-5:15-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 11-2:45-6:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 1-4:45-8:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 11:30-3:15-7-11 Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:40 Mon-Thu 2:30-6:15-10
Jack Reacher (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:45-7:50-11 Sun 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:35-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:20
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:35-7:05-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:45-6:15-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Troyens Live (STC) Sat 9
Les Misérables (PG) Fri 11:35-1:10-3:10-4:50-6:40-8:30-10:10 Sat 11:35-1:20-3:15-4:50-6:40-8:30-10:10 Sun 11:35-1:10-3:10-4:50-6:40-8:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:45-2:50-5:15-6:20-8:45-9:50
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 1-3:30-6:10-9
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Mon-Wed 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:05 Thu 4:50-7:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Promised Land (PG) Fri-Sun 11:15-2-4:50-7:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:10-6:50-9:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:45-5:20 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:35-7:35-10:25 Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-7:10-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:30-6:30-10
Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) Fri 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Sat 1-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:35 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:40-10:15
This Is 40 (14A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:35-7:40-10:50 Sun 1:20-4:35-7:40-10:35 Mon-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Thu 4:30-7:30-10:30
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 11

Burnaby

Dolphin Cinemas
4555 E. Hastings St.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri-Sun 12-3:15-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:30-9:45 Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:55

SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave.

Charlotte's Web (14A) Sat 11
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sat 11:45-3:20-6:50-10:35 Sun 11:45-3:20-6:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:55-10:30
Gangster Squad (14A) Thu 10
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri 2:45-6:30-10:15 Sat 12:40-6:30-10:15 Sun 2:45-6:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:30-5:15-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:35 Mon-Thu 3:05-6:45-10:20
Jack Reacher (PG) Fri 1:40-4:45-7:50-11 Sat 3:25-4:45-7:50-11 Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:10-7-10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:40 Sun 1:20-4:25-7:20-10:30 Mon-Thu 1-3:55-6:50-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Troyens Live (STC) Sat 9
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sat 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:10 Sun 11:40-3:10-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:40-10:10
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:50 Mon-Thu 2:20
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 12:20 Sat 11:10 Sun 12:20 Mon-Thu 1:40
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Sun 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:15-9:40 Thu 4:50-7:15
Skyfall (PG) Fri 1:10-4:15-7:25-10:30 Sat 4:15-7:25-10:30 Sun 12:55-4:05-7:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 4-7:10-10:25
Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:25 Sun 12:30-3-5:25-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:05-3:20-5:35-7:55-10:15
This Is 40 (14A) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:50 Sun 1:30-4:35-7:30-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-10:05

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

Charlotte's Web (14A) Sat 11
Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (G) Fri-Sat 11:25-2-4:35-7:20-9:55 Sun-Thu 2-4:35-7:20-9:55
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 11:20-3:05-6:50-10-10:35 Mon-Thu 2:50-6:45-10-10:30 Fri-Sun 12:45-4:30-8:30 Mon 5-8:45 Tue 1:20-5-8:45 Wed-Thu 5-8:45
Gangster Squad (14A) Thu 10
The Guilt Trip (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:55-5:30-8-10:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri-Sun 11-2:45-6:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 1-4:45-8:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Mon-Thu 3:15-7-10:45 Fri-Sun 2-6-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:40-6:20-10
Jack Reacher (PG) Fri-Sun 10:55-1:50-4:50-7:50-11 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:45
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:50 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-10:05
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 3:40-7:10-10:40 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:10-10:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Troyens Live (STC) Sat 9 Sat 9
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sun 11:10-2:55-6:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:05-4:40-8:15
Fri-Sun 11:30-3:10-6:50-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:50-10:30
Monsters, Inc. (G) Fri-Thu 1:10
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40 Mon-Tue 2:25-5-7:35-10:10 Wed 5-7:35-10:10 Thu 2:05-4:40-7:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Promised Land (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-5-7:40-10:15 Mon 4:35-7:40-10:15 Tue 1:50-4:35-7:40-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:35-7:40-10:15
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:55-7:30 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:55-7:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25 Sat 4:20-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:15 Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:45-7:15-10:35 Mon-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:25-10:40
Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 1-3:25-5:50-8:20-10:45 Mon-Thu 1-3:25-5:50-8:20-10:40
This Is 40 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:40-10:50 Mon-Tue 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:35 Wed 4:25-7:30-10:35 Thu 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:35
Fri 12:15-3:45-7:15-10:45 Sat 3:45-7:15-10:45 Sun 12:15-3:45-7:15-10:45 Mon 4:10-7:15-10:45 Tue 1-4:10-7:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 4:10-7:15-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 11

Surrey/White Rock/ Langley

Clova
5732-176th St., Surrey

Flight (14A) Fri-Thu 7
Hotel Transylvania (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
Playing for Keeps (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Sat-Sun 3:20

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

Argo (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05
Flight (14A) Fri-Thu 8:50
The Guilt Trip (PG) Fri-Sun 3:10-5:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:10
Hotel Transylvania (G) Fri-Thu 4:45
Hotel Transylvania 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:30 The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 9:15 Fri-Thu 6:45
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:30
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:30-6:40

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

Charlotte's Web (14A) Sat 11
Dabangg 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:05-10
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-3:20-7-10:35 Mon 3:20-7-10:30 Tue 11:45-3:20-7-10:35 Wed-Thu 3:20-7-10:30
Gangster Squad (14A) Thu 10
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Mon 3:15-7-10:35 Tue 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Wed-Thu 3:15-7-10:35 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 12-3:45-7:30-11 Mon 1-4:30-8 Tue 12-3:45-7:30-11 Wed-Thu 1-4:30-8
Jack Reacher (PG) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:50-11 Mon 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:35 Tue 1:50-4:50-7:50-11 Wed-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:35
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:30-7:35-10:40 Mon 1:25-4:30-7:35-10:25 Tue 1:25-4:30-7:35-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:25-4:30-7:35-10:25
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sun 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:10 Mon 3:10-6:40-10:10 Tue 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 3:10-6:40-10:10
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Tue 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40 Mon 2:40-5:20-8:05-10:30 Tue 12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:40 Wed 5:20-8:05-10:30 Thu 2-4:40-7:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5 Mon 2:40-5 Tue 12:10-2:40-5 Wed-Thu 2:40-5
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 7:30-10:45 Mon 7:30-10:35 Tue 7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 7:30-10:35
Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon 1-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:35 Tue 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 1-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:35
This Is 40 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:50 Mon 1:30-4:35-7:35-10:30 Tue 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:50 Wed 4:35-7:35-10:30 Thu 1:30-4:35-7:35-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (G) , Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:20 , Mon 5:50 , Tue 4:20-7:20 , Wed-Thu 5:50
Dabangg 2 (PG) , , Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:35 , , Mon 5:25-8:20 , , Tue 3:40-6:40-9:35 , , Wed-Thu 5:25-8:20
Django Unchained (14A) , , Fri-Sun 12:20-4:40 , , Mon 7:55 , , Tue 4-7:40 , , Wed-Thu 7:55
The Guilt Trip (PG) , , Fri-Sun 9:55 , , Mon 8:25 , , Tue 9:55 , , Wed-Thu 8:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) , , Fri-Sun 12:10-3:50-7:30 , , Mon 5 , , Tue 3:50-7:30 , , Wed-Thu 5
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) , Fri-Sun 2:30-6:10-9:45 , Mon 7:45 , Tue 2:30-6:10-9:45 , Wed-Thu 7:45
Jack Reacher (PG) , , Fri-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:50-9:50 , , Mon 5:30-8:35 , , Tue 3:20-6:50-9:50 , , Wed-Thu 5:30-8:35
Life of Pi (G) , , Fri-Sun 12:05-3:10-6:20-9:20 , , Mon 5:10-8:15 , , Tue 3:10-6:20-9:20 , , Wed-Thu 5:10-8:15
Les Misérables (PG) , , Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7 , , Mon 8:05 , , Tue 3:30-7 , , Wed-Thu 8:05
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) , Fri-Sun 12:30-3-6:30 , Mon 5:45 , Tue 3-6:30 , Wed-Thu 5:45 Parental Guidance (G) , , Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:05-9:40 , , Mon 5:40-8:40 , , Tue 4:15-7:05-9:40 , , Wed-Thu 5:40-8:40
Skyfall (PG) , , Fri-Sun 9 , , Mon 8:10 , , Tue 9 , , Wed-Thu 8:10
Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) , Fri-Sun 12:50-3:25-6:40-9:10 , Mon 5:55-8:50 , Tue 3:25-6:40-9:10 , Wed-Thu 5:55-8:50
This Is 40 (14A) , , Fri-Sun 12:25-3:35-6:45-10 , , Mon 5:20-8:30 , , Tue 3:35-6:45-10 , , Wed-Thu 5:20-8:30

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock

The Guilt Trip (PG) Fri 7-9 Sat-Sun 2:10-7-9 Mon-Thu 7-9
Les Misérables (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Sun 2-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 1:45-7:45 Mon-Thu 7:45 The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30 Jack Reacher (PG) Fri-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Sun 2:15-7:15-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:20

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

Charlotte's Web (14A) Sat 11
Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:45-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20-9:55
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45-1:40-3:20-5:20-7-9-10:35 Mon-Thu 5-6-9-10
Gangster Squad (14A) Thu 10
The Guilt Trip (PG) Fri 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sat 3-5:30-8-10:30 Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Tue 4:10-7:25-10:05 Wed 7:25-10:05 Thu 4:10-7:25-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (14A) Fri 2:45-6:30-10:15 Sat 11-2:45-6:30-10:15 Sun 2:45-6:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:15-9
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-3:15-7-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:20-8
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 2:15-6-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:15-10
Jack Reacher (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:30-10:30
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 4-7:10-10:15
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:50-7:05-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Les Troyens Live (STC) Sat 9
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:50-8:30 Mon-Thu 4-7:45 Fri-Sun 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:30-7-10:30
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:15-9:50 Mon-Wed 4:15-6:55-9:30 Thu 4:15-6:55
Parental Guidance (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:15-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:05-9:50
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Sun 11:40-2:10-4:45 Mon-Thu 4:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:35-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:55-9:55
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:55-7:10-10:35 Mon-Thu 3:35-7-10:25
Texas Chainsaw 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:35-10:20
This Is 40 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:35-10:40 Mon-Tue 3:45-7:05-10:10 Wed 7:05-10:10 Thu 3:45-7:05-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 7:20-10:10 Mon-Tue 7:20-10:15 Wed 10:15 Thu 7:20-10:15
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Sun 11:35

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Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Celebs call for tougher paparazzi rules in wake of photographer's death

The 29-year-old photographer had just snapped shots of Justin Bieber's white Ferrari when he was struck and killed by a passing car — a death that has spurred renewed debate over dangers paparazzi can bring on themselves and the celebrities they chase.

The accident prompted some stars, including the teen heartthrob himself, to renew calls for tougher laws to rein in their pursuers, though previous urgings have been stymied by First Amendment protections.

The Los Angeles County coroner's office confirmed Thursday that the photographer was Christopher James Guerra.

In a statement, Bieber said his prayers were with the photographer's family. Ironically, the singer wasn't even in the Ferrari on Tuesday.

"Hopefully this tragedy will finally inspire meaningful legislation and whatever other necessary steps to protect the lives and safety of celebrities, police officers, innocent public bystanders and the photographers themselves," Bieber said in a statement released by Island Def Jam Music Group.

Much of Hollywood was abuzz about the death, including Miley Cyrus, who sent several tweets critical of some of the actions of paparazzi and lamenting that the unfortunate accident was "bound to happen."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Paparazzi are dangerous! Wasn't Princess Di enough of a wake-up call?!"

Miley Cyrus, via Twitter

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Worst celebrity tattoos

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

In honour of the news that Lil' Wayne got "Baked" tattooed above his right eye (aren't you glad he doesn't have a real job? Can you imagine him sitting in front of HR?), The Word is compiling some of the worst celebrity tattoos.

Scarlett Johansson got this wrist tattoo last year that has "I Love NY" written inside the "charm." At this point in her career, can't she get a bracelet that's removable?

Kelly Osbourne has skull and crossbones, complete with pink bows, on her feet. Next time she critiques someone else's choices on Fashion Police, remember this.

Hayden Panettiere's side tattoo "Vivere senza rimipianti" should read "to live without regrets" in Italian. Sadly, the Italian word for "regrets" is "rimpianti" meaning her tat is misspelled. So, yeah, about that whole "living without regrets" thing...

Lindsay Lohan's "shhhh" finger tattoo isn't really working for her, is it?

Ke$ha

Ke$ha opens up about dating men ... and women

Ke$ha tells the latest issue of Seventeen that she doesn't look at the sex of a person she wants to date, she looks at the whole person. "I don't love just men. I love people. It's not about a gender. It's just about the spirit that exudes from that other person you're with," she says. She also recounts how she uses setbacks she experienced earlier in her life to motivate herself. "I remember every person who told me I couldn't do something or that I was ugly or too fat. I have a 's— list' — people from my past who have been soulless and judgmental."

Twitter

@ChrisColfer
Happy New Year everyone! Hope 2013 is everything you want it to be! Unless you're a Mayan enthusiast, then my condolences.

@azizansari
RAMP UP 2013 RIGHT NOW, THROW ON MARK MORRISON'S RETURN OF THE MACK RIGHT NOW

@ConanO'Brien
To ring in the New Year, I'm heading to D.C. to watch Congress drop the ball. #whatdoyoumeanimthe5000000thpersontomakethisjoke?

@KatieCouric
In 2013 I am going to try to declutter my life. Floss more. Write more handwritten thank you notes. What about you??

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Give the beef a break and reach for bison

Seared Bison with Sage and Gnocchi.
Red meat alternative is gaining popularity

Now is the perfect time to venture down the culinary path with bison, an alternative red meat that is showing up at more and more grocers.

Bison meat (which is raised without hormones or antibiotics) can be incredibly tender and flavourful, with a sweet, rich beefy flavour.

It also happens to be amazingly lean, packing fewer calories and less fat than beef and even skinless chicken.

That low-fat profile comes with a price, however. Like any lean meat, bison has a tendency to cook quickly, so quickly that it's easy to overcook it. And that is why bison has a reputation for being tough. It isn't. If you have bison that is tough, that just means it was overcooked.

You can use bison much as you would beef. The trick is to modify the cooking method (rather than the flavours or other ingredients) to account for the leanness. Here, it's used with Italian potato gnocchi.

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 lb package gnocchi pasta
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 1 1/2 lbs bison steak, thinly sliced across the grain
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh sage
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and ground black pepper

1. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the gnocchi and cook according to package directions. Reserve 1/4 cup of the cooking water, then drain the gnocchi and set aside.

2. In skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes, then sauté the garlic for 30 seconds.

3. Add the steak and sear on each side for about 1 minute. Don't crowd the pan or the steak will steam rather than sear. If needed, work in batches.

4. Once the steak is seared, add the sage and cooked gnocchi. Cook for 30 seconds, then add the Parmesan. Drizzle in just enough of the reserved cooking water to form a sauce with the melted cheese. Toss, then season with salt and pepper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liquid Assets

2013 booze resolutions

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Well here we are, 2013. Over the holidays, I had more than a few glasses of wine in hopes of finding some inspiration for an appropriate life changing 2013. Unfortunately, all I could come up with were some boozy alternative resolutions to losing weight and managing money better for you, dear readers.

Drink local: There are independent wineries, distilleries and breweries filling bottles with unique liquids in your province.

Get social: Share what you're drinking with your old high school mates and ex-significant others on Twitter or Facebook. Words not your thing? Post a picture. It will last longer.

Channel your inner food fetish: Pick a recipe, any recipe, find a beverage that works with it (just email me, I'll tell ya) and put both in your mouth.

Return to the white side: Reds have been the darling of vinophiles for long enough. Rediscover the subtle sophistication of whites. Start with Fazi Battaglia's 2011 Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi Classico ($10.99 to $14.99) – a green-fruited Italian with a refreshingly acidic zing. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

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Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events courtesy of Notable.ca.
To get even more info on these Notable happenings, make sure to check out notable.ca/nationwide/metro/Jan4

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

Instagram-o-rama

It's a Polaroid party worth noting and back for another year of charitable fun. Five Sixty (560 Seymour St.) is set to host a selection of more than 200 Instagram photo prints, limited edition collages available for purchase with proceeds supporting imagine1day's notable cause. Check out this original art show starting at 6 p.m. this Saturday and get your groove on to DJ beats until late. Tickets are only $10 and sold out last year. For more information, visit instagramorama-es2.eventbrite.com.

Watch: The Cultch Presents Grim & Fischer

Add a little live theatre to the mix and be sure to catch The Cultch's latest offering featuring a performance pitting an aging grandmother against the Grim Reaper. This acclaimed full-face mask dark comedy is presented by physical theatre dynamic duo the Wonderheads, who tell the story of one woman's plight for survival and her ensuing battle against Death himself — one (mis)adventure not to miss. Grab your tickets from thecultch.com.

Just Opened: Pig & Mortar

Tired of those new year healthy eating resolutions already? The owners of popular food truck Pig on the Street have recently opened the doors to their equally pork (and fork) friendly 30-seat restaurant at 1529 West 6th Ave., near Granville and Fir Streets. Enjoy digging into some delicious and casual pub-style grub while you sip from a selection of wines on tap (courtesy of Vancouver Urban Winery) as well as rare rotating keg and craft beers. pigonthestreet.com.

Coming up: Art Battle 40

Grab your brush set and head down to Raw Canvas (1046 Hamilton St.) on Tuesday for the return of their popular competitive painting event. It's an action-packed and inspirational evening fuelled by eight featured artists who unleash their talents on canvas during three rounds of competition. Art will be available via silent auction and the winner will move on to the Art Battle Vancouver finals and inch toward the National Art Battle Championships. For more info, visit artbattle.ca.

Coming up: Shop Local Market

Part farmers market, craft fair and culture crawl rolled into one, this annual fair features a wide selection of farmers market goods, a culture crawl and a craft fair. The event includes handcrafted jewelry, unique gifts, vegan botanical cosmetics and supplements, wild organic food, art, home accessories and live music. Jan 13.

Recently opened: Chipotle Mexican Grill

Courtesy of our U.S. neighbours comes Vancouver's first-ever Chipotle hot spot for quick, tasty Mexican fare. Conveniently located right downtown at 818 Howe St. (near Robson at Howe), hungry Vancouverites unable to make it to Mexico can find respite in noshing on flavourful and filling items from this popular chain's menu. Look for simple ingredients, zesty sauces and easy on the post-holiday wallet price points. chipotle.com.

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WHL

Giants bring in new goalie as flurry of trades continue

Another day and another trade for the Vancouver Giants.

On Thursday, the club picked up goaltender Jared Rathjen from the Victoria Royals in exchange for an eighth-round pick in this year's bantam draft.

Rathjen, 18, is currently with the Whitecourt Wolverines of the Alberta Junior Hockey League, but will join the Giants in Edmonton.

Vancouver begins a five-game road trip in Alberta, beginning Friday against the Red Deer Rebels.

Rathjen currently sports a 6-4-1 record with the Wolverines, with a 2.99 goals-against average and a .916 save percentage. He also has 26 regular-season games experience with the Royals over the past two years.

The Giants, who have gone with three goalies for much of the 2012-13 campaign, announced last month the retirement of 19-year-old puckstopper Liam Liston, who chose to continue his education.

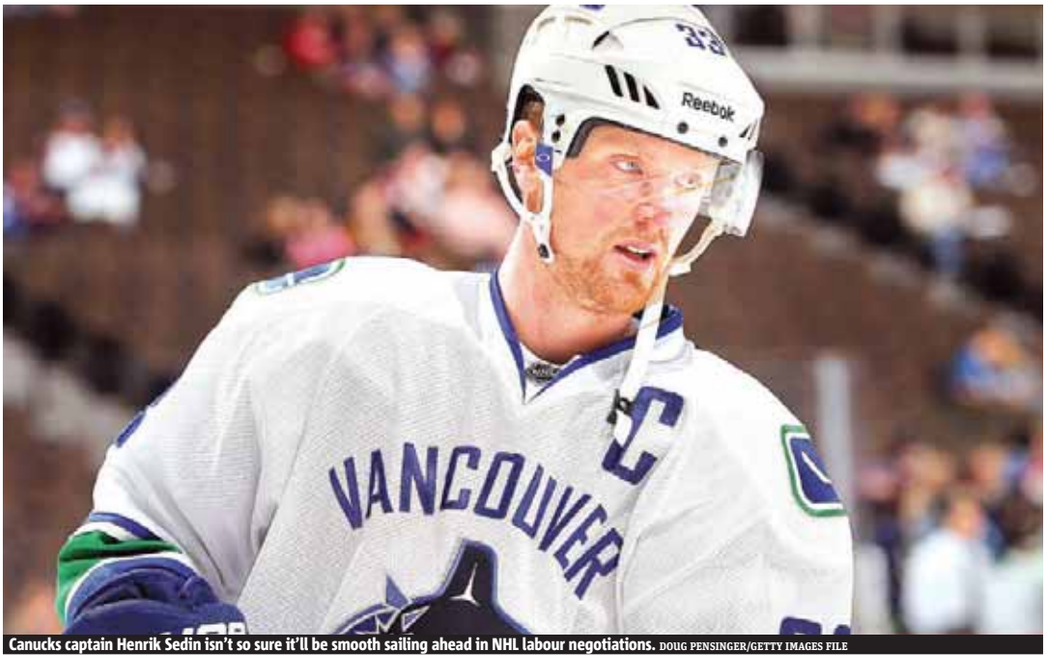
Payton Lee, 16, was getting the bulk of the starts before he left for Team Pacific at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

Thursday's deal came less than 24 hours after the Giants dealt 20-year-old tough guy Kale Kessy to the Kamloops Blazers mere minutes after the two teams faced off at the Pacific Coliseum.

The Giants, in return, got Rob Trzonkowski and a fifth-round pick in the 2015 draft.

The Giants also announced Thursday the signing of 16-year-old forward Luca Leone, who had been playing with the British Columbia Hockey League's Coquitlam Express.

CAM TUCKER/METRO



Canucks captain Henrik Sedin isn't so sure it'll be smooth sailing ahead in NHL labour negotiations. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Some Canucks wary of a possible deal

NHL. 'It wouldn't surprise me if it doesn't happen,' says Henrik Sedin

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Cautious optimism. It's a phrase that has accompanied the mood of locked-out NHL players during the ongoing labour dispute.

It's been present in just about every conversation when members of the media and players broach the topic of ongoing negotiations, as the NHL and its players' association try reach a new collective bargaining agreement and salvage a shortened 2013 season that now hangs in the balance.

"I think it's positive they're talking but it might hit a few bumps before we get a word out," said Henrik Sedin following a skate at UBC Thursday.

"You've got to have two powers that want to make a deal, to get it done. I'm hoping that they can get it done. I've seen things happen that it wouldn't surprise me if it doesn't happen."

As of Thursday evening, players were set for their second disclaimer of interest vote, which, if passed and declared, could dissolve the union and allow players to file antitrust suits against the NHL.

Still, the recent talks in New York have led to the belief that both sides will reach a deal in time to save the season. Commissioner Gary Bettman has said Jan. 19 is the date in which the puck must drop in order to play a 48-game season.

If a deal were to get done soon, it would likely mean a one-week training camp and straight into regular-season games, which would equate to a track meet with very little comprehensive warm-up for players who decided to stay in North America instead of venturing to leagues in Europe.

"I would prefer to have a couple (exhibition games)," said Chris Higgins.

"It would be tough to hop in there and start playing right away, that's for sure, without getting a little bit of game competition. I'm hoping we get to play one or two pre-season games at the least.

"I don't know if that's going to happen."

Quoted

"It would be tough to hop in there and start playing right away, that's for sure, without getting a little bit of game competition."

Canucks forward Chris Higgins

NHLPA starts 'disclaimer' process over again

NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Less than a day after letting a self-imposed deadline pass to declare a "disclaimer of interest," NHL players began voting to restore their executive board's authority to dissolve the union.

A 48-hour period for the NHLPA's membership to cast ballots opened at 6 p.m. ET on Thursday, according to a source.

The first vote, held over five days last month, passed overwhelmingly. Should at least two-thirds of players return a positive vote again and the NHLPA decide to notify the league it is disclaiming, it would open the door for players to file antitrust lawsuits.

Stuck on the cap

The salary cap range for the 2013-14 season remained a significant hurdle, according to sources.

- The union is seeking a $65-million cap and a $44-million floor while the league has proposed an upper limit of $60 million and a lower limit of $44 million.

It was a day that saw much more action away from the bargaining room than in it. The NHLPA also filed its statement of defence with the district court in New York, arguing that the lawsuit filed by the NHL last month should be dismissed because it was brought forward for "strategic reasons."

"The NHL is using this suit in an attempt to force the players to remain in a union," it claimed.

The league had asked the court to rule on the legality of the lockout in a move considered to be a pre-emptive strike to a potential "disclaimer of interest" declaration from the NHLPA.

The sides met in small groups on Thursday — a departure from the large group sessions held recently. NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr led a group of players and staff into an early afternoon meeting while an even smaller group returned in the evening to discuss the pension plan.

Both the league and union met independently with U.S. federal mediator Scot Beckenbaugh and were scheduled to gather together with him again on Friday morning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An inglorious end to Canada's hopes

World juniors. Talent-laden Canadians' title drought extended to four years in Russia

An NHL lockout has helped lift Canada to gold at past world junior hockey championships.

But not this time.

Canada dominated en route to gold in 1995 and 2005 when the NHL also locked out its players.

Another labour stoppage this year meant coach Steve Spott had most of the country's top 19-year-old talent available to him.

But bronze is the best this Canadian team can do after a 5-1 loss to the United States in Thursday's semifinal.

The Americans and defending champion Sweden will play for gold, while Canada takes on the hosts for bronze Saturday in Ufa, Russia. The Swedes edged Russia 3-2 in a shootout in the other semifinal.

Canada must find solace in extending its run of medals in this tournament to 15 consecutive years.

Canadian captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, right, hangs his head with teammates after losing 5-1 to Team USA on Thursday in Ufa, Russia. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We've got to come home with a medal," captain Ryan Nugent-Hopkins said. "It's not the one we want to come home with, but we've got to do it for our country."

Canada beat the U.S. and Russia en route to finishing first in Pool B at 4-0 to earn a bye to the semifinal. But for the second straight year, Canada failed to parlay the bye into a berth in the gold-medal game.

"For it to happen again, it's pretty heartbreaking," said second-year forward Mark Scheifele.

The International Ice Hockey Federation is doing away with the bye starting in 2014, so the tournament will feature four quarter-finals instead of two.

So while the Americans flexed their scoring muscles in a 7-0 win over the Czech Republic in Wednesday's quarter-final, the Canadians vowed after practice the same day they couldn't have a slow start Thursday.

But they went out and did just that. The firepower that Canada purportedly had up front did not fire.

Scheifele, Jonathan Huberdeau and Ryan Strome would probably have joined Nugent-Hopkins in the NHL this season if not for the lockout. All four were held off the scoresheet.

When Spott chose his 23 players at selection camp in Calgary last month, he said he did so with speed in mind. It was the Americans who made Canada look like they were standing still for two periods Thursday.

Led by Calgary Flames prospect John Gaudreau and captain Jake McCabe, the U.S. beat Canada to the puck at both ends of the ice for 40 minutes to build a 4-0 lead.

Unlike last year's 6-5 semifinal loss to Russia in Calgary, where Canada scored four third-period goals, this Canadian team didn't rally to make it close.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What to watch for on Saturday

A glance at Saturday's bronze-medal game between Canada and Russia (1 a.m., TSN):

- **Ryan Nugent-Hopkins** — Held off the scoresheet in semifinal loss, Canada's captain needs to create scoring chances on top line.
- **Jonathan Drouin** — A chance for 17-year-old forward to further raise his stock for the NHL draft.
- **Nikita Kucherov** — Forward for the QMJHL's Rouyn-Noranda Huskies leads Russians in scoring.
- **Nail Yakupov** — Has been guilty of trying to do too much on his own. Time to start distributing the puck.

NBA

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	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	22	8	.733	—
New York	22	10	.688	1
Atlanta	20	10	.667	2
Indiana	19	13	.594	4
Chicago	17	13	.567	5
Milwaukee	16	14	.533	6
Brooklyn	17	15	.531	6
Philadelphia	15	18	.455	8½
Boston	14	17	.452	8½
Toronto	12	20	.375	11
Orlando	12	20	.375	11
Detroit	12	22	.353	12
Charlotte	8	23	.258	14½
Cleveland	7	26	.212	16½
Washington	4	26	.133	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	24	7	.774	—
San Antonio	26	9	.743	—
L.A. Clippers	25	8	.758	—
Memphis	20	9	.690	3
Golden State	22	10	.688	2½
Houston	18	14	.563	6½
Denver	18	16	.529	7½
Minnesota	15	14	.517	8
Portland	16	15	.516	8
Utah	16	17	.485	9
L.A. Lakers	15	16	.484	9
Dallas	13	20	.394	12
Sacramento	12	20	.375	12½
Phoenix	12	21	.364	13
New Orleans	7	25	.219	17½

Thursday's results
New York 100 San Antonio 83
Minnesota 101 Denver 97
Wednesday's results
Toronto 102 Portland 79
Brooklyn 110 Oklahoma City 93
Chicago 96 Orlando 94
Houston 104 New Orleans 92
Golden State 115 L.A. Clippers 94
Indiana 89 Washington 81
Memphis 93 Boston 83
Miami 119 Dallas 109 (OT)
Phoenix 95 Philadelphia 89
Sacramento 97 Cleveland 94
San Antonio 117 Milwaukee 110
Utah 106 Minnesota 84
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Sacramento at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Washington, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Boston, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 8 p.m.
Portland at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Houston at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP-WTA BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL

At Brisbane, Australia
Men's Singles — Second Round
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. **Milos Raonic (2), Thornhill, Ont.**, 6-3, 6-4.
Alexandr Dolgopolov (4), Ukraine, def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 6-2, 4-1, retired.
Kei Nishikori (5), Japan, def. Tommy Robredo, Spain, 6-3, 6-3.
Jurgen Melzer (7), Austria, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 7-5, 7-5.
Women's Singles — Quarter-finals
Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Ksenia Pervak, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 6-0.
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, def. Angelique Kerber (4), Germany, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3).
Second Round
Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Sabine Lisicki, Germany, 6-3, 6-3.

ATP CHENNAI OPEN

At Chennai, India
Men's Doubles — First Round
Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and **Daniel Nestor (1), Toronto**, def. N. Sriram Balaji, India, and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, India, 6-3, 6-0.

NFL

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
AFC — Cincinnati at Houston, 4:30 p.m.
NFC — Minnesota at Green Bay, 8 p.m.
Sunday's games
AFC — Indianapolis at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
NFC — Seattle at Washington, 4:30 p.m.

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 12
AFC — Baltimore, Indianapolis or Cincinnati at Denver, 4:30 p.m.
NFC — Washington, Seattle or Green Bay at San Francisco, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 13
NFC — Washington, Seattle or Minnesota at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
AFC — Baltimore, Indianapolis or Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sunday, Jan. 20
AFC and NFC, TBA

IIHF WORLD JUNIORS

CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

Thursday's results
SEMIFINALS
U.S. 5 **Canada 1**
Sweden 3 Russia 2 (SO)
Wednesday's results
QUARTER-FINALS
U.S. 7 Czech Republic 0
Russia 4 Switzerland 3 (SO)
Friday's game — All Times Eastern
FIFTH PLACE
Czech Republic vs. Switzerland, 8 a.m.
Saturday's games
BRONZE MEDAL GAME
Canada vs. Russia, 4 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL
Sweden vs. U.S., 8 a.m.

RELEGATION BRACKET

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Finland	2	2	0	0	0	13	1	6
Slovakia	2	1	1	0	0	7	4	5
Germany	2	0	0	1	1	1	10	1
Latvia	2	0	0	0	2	4	10	0

Thursday's result
Slovakia 5 Latvia 3
Wednesday's result
Finland 8 Germany 0
Friday's games
Latvia vs. Germany, 4 a.m.
Finland vs. Slovakia, 8 a.m.

U.S. 5, CANADA 1

First Period
1. U.S., McCabe 2 (Reilly, Barber) 7:18.
2. U.S., McCabe 3 (Grimaldi, Trochek) 16:02.
Penalties — None.
Second Period
3. U.S., Gaudreau 6 (McCabe, Gibson) 2:58
4. U.S., Vesey 1 (Gaudreau, Miller) 12:44
Penalties — Nugent-Hopkins Cda (slashing) 6:48, Murphy US (tripping) 9:46, Reinhart Cda (high-sticking) 14:20, Camara Cda (high-sticking) 18:54.
Third Period
5. Canada, Rattie 3, 4:03 (sh)
6. U.S., Gaudreau 7 (Vesey, Miller) 5:41
Penalties — Sheifele Cda (kneeing), Sieloff US (handling the puck) 0:48, Canada bench (too many men; served by Ritchie) 2:57, Gaudreau US (high-sticking) 9:55, Camara Cda (high-sticking) 15:56, Danault Cda (kneeing) 18:58, Reinhard Cda (cross-checking) 20:00.
Shots on goal by

U.S.	12	12	16 — 42
Canada	8	10	16 — 34

Goal (shots-saves) — U.S.: Gibson (W, 4-2): Canada: Subban (L,4-1, 16-12), Binnington (12:44 second; 26-25).
Power plays (goals-chances) — U.S.: 0-6; Canada, 0-2.
Attendance — 4,781 (8,250) at Ufa, Russia.

MLB

Former Blue Jays reliever signs with Rangers

Setup reliever Jason Frasor signed a $1.5-million US, one-year deal Thursday with the Texas Rangers. The 35-year-old right-hander spent most of his career with Toronto, setting a Blue Jays franchise record with 505 appearances since his major league debut in 2004.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian soccer

Racist chants mar friendly match

A friendly match between AC Milan and lower-division club Pro Patria was abandoned Thursday after Milan's players walked off the pitch because of racist chants, the latest incident of racial abuse blighting the sport in Europe.

After repeated chants directed his way, Ghana midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng picked up the ball and kicked it at a section of the crowd in the 26th minute of the first half.

Boateng then took off his shirt and walked off with his Milan teammates. Urby Emanuelson, Sulley Muntari and M'Baye Niang were also targeted by the chants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL. Former Blue Bombers coach Kelly on comeback trail

Mike Kelly is on the road to redemption.

The former Winnipeg Blue Bombers head coach confirmed Thursday he's trying to get his foot back in the Canadian Football League door on a coaching or personnel level.

"I'm going about my business behind the scenes and letting the cards fall where they may," Kelly said in Winnipeg after being a guest speaker at the Premier Football Factory skills and development camp.

"I'm not yelling and screaming, 'Somebody please hire me.' I don't want to come off like that. My point is, I have a great passion for the CFL and would like to work in the league again."

Kelly, 54, was fired by the Bombers in December 2009 after a controversial rookie season as head coach. His outspoken ways often landed him in hot water with fans, the media and CFL brass, and a 7-11 record didn't help matters.

Even his firing was dramatic.

Just hours after Lyle Bauer resigned as the club's president and CEO on Dec. 17, it was discovered Kelly had been charged that morning in an alleged domestic dispute with his ex-girlfriend at his Pennsylvania home.

CFL resume

Kelly was Edmonton's receivers coach before he got the Blue Bombers head-coaching job, which he called his "dream job." He'd been Winnipeg's offensive co-ordinator from 1992-96.

After an emergency board meeting that evening, then-chairman Ken Hildahl announced the Bombers were firing Kelly and it had nothing to do with his legal trouble.

The charges were later dropped and the record of it expunged.

"I know I have to rebuild myself and reprove myself," Kelly said. "I understand that I have to take a step back in order to move forward and I'm more than willing to do that but I think I bring a breadth of knowledge to whatever position I have and an understanding of how to run an organization in this league."

Kelly lived in Winnipeg until last August, when he got a job as offensive co-ordinator for the varsity football team at Mariner High School in Cape Coral, Fla. He's also teaching some physical education and driver's education courses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you have been thinking about taking a trip or arranging your next vacation now is the time to get serious about it. Don't go where other people want you to go – go where you feel most inspired.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
It may feel as if something good is going out of your life, and maybe it is, but something equally good will replace it within a matter of days. Don't worry: Lady Luck is still on your side.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have only to put a name to your dreams to see them come true. Can it really be that easy? Yes it can. Believe that you deserve the best and you will surely get it over the next few days.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No doubt you wish you could close your eyes and ears to the chaos and confusion that is taking place around you but you can't, so you might as well get used to it. Maybe you should just get more involved.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to feel that you are doing something useful with your talents and today's Mars-Jupiter link will encourage you to reach out into the world and make a difference in some way. You can be a force for change.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will find it surprisingly easy to get your way on the work front today. Colleagues and employers seem to think that you can do no wrong and if you are smart you will make the most of it.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't let anyone tell you that you are aiming too high today. If anything you are still not aiming high enough. Mars and Jupiter combine in such a way now that no challenge is too much for you.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You will have to make some big decisions over the next 24 hours and the good news is you will make them quickly and decisively. Financially and professionally you can and you must put your own needs first.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Partnership sand relationships are under good stars today, so reach out to friends and family and let them know how much you enjoy their company. A social event of some kind will bring you all closer together.

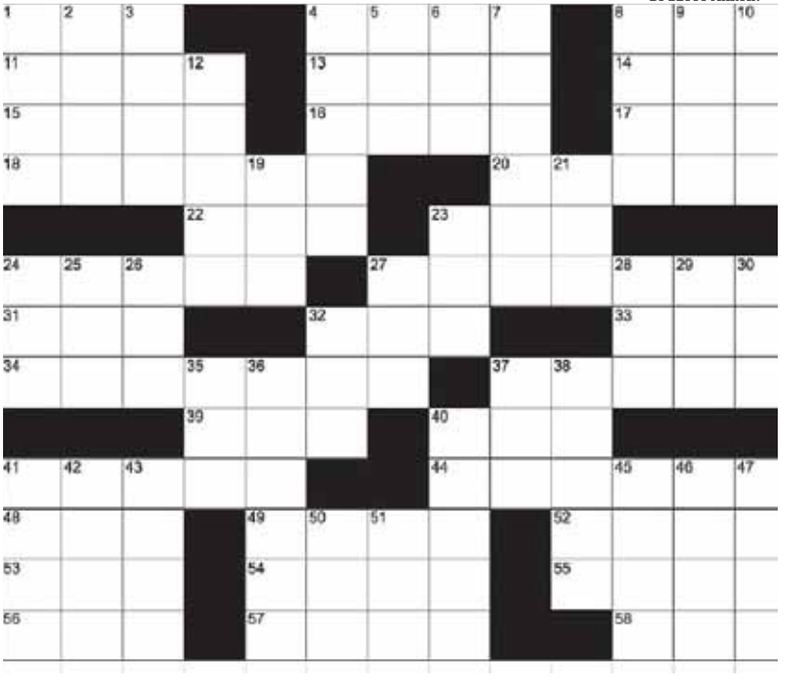
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel stronger than you have for a long time and that's good, but don't suddenly push yourself beyond your natural limits because your body may not be able to take it. You are allowed to rest you know.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your luck will change for the better today. Not that it was bad before but suddenly everything seems to be going your way again. What is it you desire most? Focus on it and soon it will be yours.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
It may seems as if your life is heading down a predestined course but that isn't strictly true. You can change your destiny any time you choose, but first you need to believe that it's possible. Start believing today. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

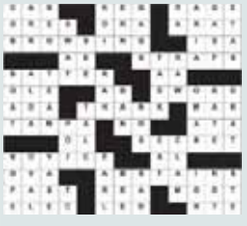
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. – – snail's pace (2 words)
4. Halt
8. Calendar square
11. Clammy
13. Luau fare
14. Devoured
15. Solo
16. Sharif of "Funny Girl"
17. Heavy weight
18. Paper border
20. Mine transports
22. Summer on the Riviera
23. "Anna and the King" actress Ling
24. Not quite right
27. On the same family tree
31. Get into
32. Police dept. rank
33. Spanish gold
34. Playing field
37. Inclined
39. Air quality org.
40. Where the buoys are
41. Give a speech
44. Cell phone feature
48. Buddy
49. Close by
52. Baby buggy
53. St. crosser
54. Jazzy Fitzgerald
55. Sediment
56. Superman foe Luther
57. Regard
58. Old video game letters

Down
1. Role for David Canary on All My Children
2. "Gone with the Wind" plantation
3. Eastern title
4. "Romancing the —"
5. Tartan topper
6. Openings (anat.)
7. Grand entrance
8. Facts
9. Wee bit
10. Strong desires
12. Book contents
19. TGIF part
21. Inlet
23. Wager
24. Total up
25. Reply from Miss Piggy
26. – — funk (moody)
27. Lipstick colour
28. Also
29. Shore bird
30. Forest female
32. Genetic initials
35. How I — Your Mother
36. Started the bidding
37. Stew ingredient
38. Highway exits
40. "Get lost!"
41. October birthstone
42. Great review
43. Role for Michael J. Fox
45. Emerald Isle
46. Breathing sound
47. Qtys.
50. Letter after ka in Spanish
51. Bar order

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

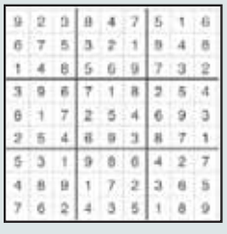
See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5					3			
4				5		3	9	
9		1			6			
7	2	8				1		
6								8
		4				6	3	7
			7			5		2
	1	7		2				3
			9					6

Yesterday's Sudoku



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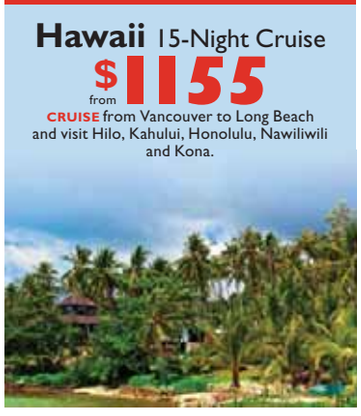
New Orleans	from $552
Ft Lauderdale	from $579
Honolulu	from $600
Costa Rica	from $789
London	from $842
Hong Kong	from $1068
Rome	from $1092
Sydney	from $1349

Hawaii



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INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights 4-star Maui accom and 4 nights Waikiki accom.

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Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights — from $277◊
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-Day *1-Park Per Day* Ticket from $216/adult, $201/child (ages 3-9).

Palm Springs
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $423
INCLUDES downtown Palm Springs accom near attractions.

Canada

Harrison Hot Springs
Valentine's Day, 2 Nights
from **$124** pp
INCLUDES accom near Harrison Lake.

Sun Peaks
3 Nights + 2-Day Lift Pass — from $274pp
INCLUDES accom in the Village and 2-day lift ticket to ski Sun Peaks.

Big White
3 Nights + 2-Day Lift Pass — from $399pp
INCLUDES ski-in, ski-out resort Village accom and 2-day lift ticket to ski Big White.

All-inclusive Vacations

Los Cabos
7 Nights 4-Star
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Puerto Vallarta
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Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star — from $991

Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star — from $1135

Cancun 7 Nights 4.5-Star — from $1245

Vacations

Buenos Aires
Air + 7 Nights
from **$1399**
INCLUDES central accom near the Plaza de Mayo.

Costa Rica
Air + 8-Day Self Drive Tour — from $1569
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare to San Jose, compact car rental, central accom and most breakfasts while travelling the route of La Fortuna, Arenal Volcano and Manuel Antonio National Park.

Amsterdam
Air + 7 Nights 4-Star — from $1579
INCLUDES accom near Vondel Park.

Australia Air + 12-Nights — from $2269
INCLUDES all airfare and 4 nights Sydney accom and 8 nights Surfer's Paradise accom.

Escorted Tours

Thailand 9-Day Tour
from **$1175**
HIGHLIGHTS Bangkok, Krabi, Ko Yao Noi and Phuket. Travel from Bangkok to Phuket.

Australia 7-Day Tour — $1395
HIGHLIGHTS Sydney, Coffs Harbour, Byron Bay and Surfer's Paradise. Tour for ages 18 - 35's. Travel from Sydney to Surfer's Paradise.

South America 17-Day Tour — $2449
HIGHLIGHTS Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Iguassu Falls, Paraty, Ilha Grande and Rio de Janeiro. Tour for ages 18 - 30 somethings. Travel from Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro.

Cruise & Stays

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights + 4-Night Cruise
from **$729**
INCLUDES airfare, 3 nights Vegas accom on the strip and 4-night coastal cruise sailing San Diego to Vancouver. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom and oceanview stateroom from $41 per night.

Anaheim
Air + 3 Nights + 4-Night Cruise — from $899
INCLUDES airfare, 3 nights Anaheim accom near theme parks and 4-night Mexico cruise sailing roundtrip from Long Beach visiting Catalina and Ensenada. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom and oceanview stateroom from $17 per night.

Hawaii
Air + 3 Nights + 13-Night Cruise — from $1589
INCLUDES airfare, central Waikiki accom near the beach and cruise sailing Honolulu to Vancouver visiting Kauai, Maui, The Big Island and Victoria. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom with fully equipped kitchen and an oceanview stateroom from $18 per night.

Long Stays

Cancun Long Stay
Air + 21 Nights
from **$1579**
INCLUDES accom in a beachfront resort in Cancun's hotel zone.

Algarve Long Stay
Air + 19 Nights — from $1859
INCLUDES Albufeira area self-catering accom near the beach with full kitchen. **ADD** airport transfers from $96.

Cape Town Long Stay
Air + 19 Nights — from $2449
INCLUDES central accom and daily breakfast included.

Asia

Philippines Air + 8 Nights
from **$1799**
INCLUDES accom in a beachfront resort on Mactan Island.

Vietnam
Air + 7 Nights + 2-Day Tour — from $1889
INCLUDES central Hanoi accom near the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum and a 2-day Halong Bay junk cruise.

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